



# The American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2018 | 6:30pm (Central)

**Purpose:** Continue Planning for 2019

**Conference Bridge:**

United States: (712) 775-7031  
Canada: (716) 293-9620 and then (712) 775-7031  
Access Code: 220-302-666 #

**Limits:** This meeting will be limited to a maximum of 90 minutes. Any unfinished business will be resumed at our next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019.

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

*In Attendance: Lorē Sampson, Don Hollingsworth, David Michener, David Maltby, Cory Tischman, Carol Adelman, Kent Tretheway, Kris Jurik, Nate Bremer, Hazel Cook, and Mike Miller*

*Absent: Piet Wierstra, Adriana Feng, Linette Sorretino, and Scott Parker*

*Called to Order: 6:30PM CST*

*Reviewed the minutes. No changes or corrections.*

**II. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Mary Muellner**

Please review the minutes of our BOD on 11-01-2018 prior to our call.

*Are there additions or corrections? Minutes approved.*

**III. President's Report – Lorē Sampson**

Welcome and thanks

BOD contact list – Please review updates and advise of additional changes

Create/update BOD email distribution list

Committees and Special Project Teams are encouraged to meet

*Some committees still have opening positions. Board members were encouraged volunteer for the openings.*

Visit [www.freeconferencecall.com](http://www.freeconferencecall.com) to set up conference bridge number

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, January 17, 2019 – 6:30 pm Central Time

**IV. Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik**

*Four memberships processed. No other changes to report at this time.*

**V. Committee Reports:**

Reminder that the APS Bylaws (Article VII, Section 4) call for all directors to serve as either an officer or committee chairman. We still have vacancies ☺

*Kent Tretheway volunteered to head up a new member mentorship program.*

**Award of Landscape Merit – Lorē Sampson**

David Maltby has agreed to join Adriana as incoming Co-Chairman.

**Commercial Members Committee – Don Hollingsworth**

Please review the attached proposal and preliminary email discussion including Adriana's comments and be ready to discuss during our meeting.

Additional considerations: This proposal includes activities that appear to be inconsistent with our current 501(c)(5) non-profit/tax exempt status with the IRS and may require a change to 501(c)(6). The APS Bylaws will also need to be changed to reflect any new commercial membership requirements.

*Commercial Members Committee Chairman, Don Hollingsworth provided background information on the committee's recommendation to change the commercial membership requirements.*

*Planning will also include ensuring new membership rules are compliant with our current non-profit status (or a recommendation to change our status, if needed) and to propose changes to the APS Bylaws to reflect the new guidelines. Planning will take place in 2019 with implementation proposed for 2020.*

*Following a discussion of both benefits and potential problems/concerns, David Michener motioned to approve moving ahead with this proposal. The Board of*

*Directors voted to adopt the goal of establishing criteria by which to limit Commercial Membership. Additional planning will include detailing a process for handling any potential complaints, determining how to handle non-compliance, etc.*

**Education Committee** – volunteer?

*Initial charge was to set up a training program and ALM judges' training. The first time ALM Judges' training was offered was in Kentucky. Training is planned for ALM Judges as part of the next convention.*

*The committee would also like to have training for show judges. Nate and Kim had some ideas for training of show judges.*

**Publicity Committee** – volunteer?

*Getting word out about events, such as conventions. We need to make sure the public is aware of the Society and events.*

**Speakers Bureau** – volunteer?

*David Michener discussed the possibility of including a page on the revised website to list speakers. The idea would be to identify speakers and their preferred topic. This idea was tabled until after the website has been revised.*

## **VI. Special Project Updates:**

### **2020 Convention Update – Chicago Botanic Garden? – David Maltby**

*David Maltby had reached out to Sarah Harlow. Previously, David had worked with Sarah for the North American Lily Society meeting, which had been held at the Chicago Botanic Garden.*

- *The weekend of June 13-14, 2020 is temporarily reserved.*
- *The Chicago Botanic Gardens will provide tables and table cloths. No rental fee for the space. Show would be at the Botanic Garden and not at the hotel.*
- *There is not a separate room for staging and set up. Individuals entering the show will be able to set up in a hallway by the greenhouses.*
- *The show must be open while the Garden is open. This is with the understanding that the show will be closed during judging.*
- *There are many hotels very close.*
- *David Maltby recommends choosing the Chicago Botanic Garden.*
- *The North American Lily Society did not have any separate tours. Members spent time in the garden. Chicago Botanic Garden has some peonies.*
- *We would need to finalize plans very soon. The normal planning cycle is 18-24 months.*

**Website Redesign Project Update** – David Michener, Co-Chairman

*Nate Bremer, Kim Bremer, and David Michener met regarding the website redesign project. Under discussion was the platform, documents, tracking mechanism, as well as the request for expenditures that had previously been approved.*

*While a decision to authorize funding had previously occurred, it was unclear what funds had been authorized. Don Hollingsworth made a motion to cancel the prior authorization and authorize up to \$10,000 for the initial phase of the redesign work. Kris Jurik seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion.*

**Mentorship Program for New Members**

*Kent Tretheway volunteered. Kim Bremer also expressed interest.*

**VII. New Business:**

**New Registrations** – Issues discussed during our last Board related to new registrations, image requirements and moving registrations into an annual supplement to The Bulletin are being referred to the Nomenclature Committee. Recommendations will be presented at our January 2019 Board meeting.

**Other New Projects:**

Establish a mentorship program for new members – Any interest?

*Kent volunteered. Kim Bremer is willing to assist.*

Review APS Bylaws for possible updates in 2019 – Any interest?

*None at this time.*

Other project ideas?

*David Michener updated the Board on a breakthrough in the Lemoine's Disease research. The research has determined that Lemoine's Disease is a virus.*

*Lorē indicated Jim Sampson would be interested in working on any scientific related projects. There is a possibility that we may be able to have a graduate student write an article on the topic.*

**VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

*Nate Bremer motioned to adjourn. Mike Miller seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned on time.*